GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MAY 1887.

The principal features of interest in the meteorology of the past month have been on the one hand the excessive heat and dryness of Upper India, on the other the progress of a well-marked and moderately intense cyclonic storm from the Bay into North Bengal.

Except during the passage of the abovementioned storm, pressure over India has maintained great uniformity in its general distribution. It has been steadily high on the west coast of the Peninsula, low over Orissa, Northern Bengal, and the east of the Central Provinces, and lowest over the Punjab. Compared with the average of the month, there was a slight excess of pressure at Bhuj, along the west coast of the Peninsula, at a few inland stations in the Peninsula, and at Colombo. Elsewhere pressure has been in defect—most so in the Punjab, where at Sialkot and Rawalpindi the deficiency amounted over a tenth of an inch. The largest excess was at Karwar and Mangalore (+·037 inch), the largest defect at Rawalpindi (—·104 inch), so that the amplitude of the variation from the normal throughout the whole of India amounted to ·141 inch.

The winds have been generally very steady. They have been moderate or light from the westward (north-west to south-west) over the west coast, the Peninsula, and the Central Provinces; strong from the southward (south-west to south-east) over the Bay and Bengal; and variable, but generally southeasterly, up the Gangetic valley. On the whole, the Bay of Bengal branch of the summer monsoon has been much stronger and earlier than that on the West Coast. The latter up to the close of the month was very feeble, neither the rain-fall nor the strength of the wind on the Malabar and Konkan Coasts being equal to the average. On the contrary, on the Bengal side the southerly winds were generally strong, on some occasions exceedingly so, and the moisture which they brought up occasioned very heavy rain around the head of Bay and as far north-west as Behar.

In Upper India temperature was much above the average, and the air both on the hills and on the plains was excessively dry. At Murree the moisture in the atmosphere was as much as 26 per cent below the normal on the average of the month, and at nearly all places in North-Western India the deficiency considerably exceeded 10 per cent. At Rawalpindi the mean 10 A. M. temperature of the month was almost 10° above the average, but from this point the amount of the excess gradually decreased till over Bengal, the greater part of the Peninsula, and in Burmah it disappeared and was replaced by a deficiency.

Rain-fall was deficient over the greater part of the country, but was slightly in excess in the Berars, Khandesh, Orissa, and Lower Bengal, and largely in excess over Northern Bengal and Berar.

The Cyclone.—On 23rd May the wind began to blow strongly from south about Cape Negrais, and stormy squally weather prevailed off the West Pegu Coast. The depression which was causing these unsettled conditions subsequently travelled slowly north-westward towards the head of the Bay; on the 24th it lay between False Point and Akyab, on the 25th between False Point and Saugor Island, and in the early morning of the 26th it apparently crossed the Orissa Coast near Balasore, and by 10 A. M. on that day had reached Midnapore. During its progress up the Bay the wind had blown with a well-marked cyclonic circulation, and had risen to the force of a strong gale (rates of 60 to 69 miles per hour) over the head of the Bay. From newspaper reports the barometer near the centre of the storm fell as low as 28·200 inches; but the lowest reading given by any of the meteorological stations was 28·42 inches at Balasore at 4-30 on the morning of the 26th. After crossing the coast the storm advanced rather quickly through Chutia Nagpur to South Behar, and then, while drifting slowly northward towards North Behar, gradually filled up and disappeared. It occasioned very heavy rain-fall all over Orissa, Chutia Nagpur, Behar, and Central and Northern Bengal, the principal amounts beyond those already quoted in the daily reports being—

560

District.	Station.	Date.	Inches.
Cuttack	Jaipur	26th May ..	9·15
	Dhurmsala	26th ,, ..	5·00
Balasore	Bhudduck	6th ,, ..	7·66
Moorshedabad	Jungipur	27th ,, ..	6·11
Sonthal Pergunnahs ..	Rajmahal	27th ,, ..	7·70
	Pakur	27th ,, ..	6·35
Hazaribagh	Chatra	27th ,, ..	5·56
Nuddea	Meharpur	28th ,, ..	5·35
Rangapur	Nelphamari	28th ,, ..	6·79
Julpigori	Devigunge	28th ,, ..	5·62
Darjeeling	Siliguri	28th ,, ..	5·65

The following statement shows the amount of rain and the difference between the average during the month of May 1887, as far as is indicated from the telegraphic reports :—

	No. of Stations.	Average rain-fall in May.	Difference between the average rain-fall in May, 1887.
Punjab, West	7	1·30	—0·25
Do East	4	1·81	—1·78
North-Western Provinces, Trans-Gangetic	9	1·61	—1·39
Do do Cis-Gangetic	3	0·44	—0·44
Behar	2	1·37	+5·56
Northern Bengal	2	5·25	+13·89
Assam, Cachar	3	14·10	—4·56
Lower Bengal, Chutia Nagpore	6	5·81	+0·83
Orissa, Northern Circars	6	2·87	+0·55
Central Provinces, South	7	0·65	—0·28
Berar, Khandesh	2	0·42	+0·97
Rajputana, Central India	8	0·62	—0·54
Saugor and Nerbudda			
Sind and Cutch	4	0·10	—0·10
Guzerat	3	0·25	—0·08
Konkan	4	1·06	—0·48
Deccan, Hyderabad	5	1·80	—0·67
Malabar	4	7·46	—4·28
Mysore, Bellary	4	3·88	—0·75
Carnatic	6	2·52	—1·47
British Burma	6	10·66	—0·82
Ceylon	1	13·24	—1·32

Simla, 5th June 1887.

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